

Waynesborough
2049 Waynesborough Road, .3 mile west
of State Route 252, south of Paoli
Paoli Vicinity (Easttown Township)
Chester County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-208

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-208

WAYNESBOROUGH

Location: 2049 Waynesborough Road, .3 mile west of State Route 252, south of Paoli, Paoli Vicinity (Easttown Township), Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner and Occupant: Orrin Wickersham June
2049 Waynesborough Road, Paoli, Pennsylvania.

Present Use: Residence.

Statement of Significance: Waynesborough is a fine example of an 18th century stone house which retains many of its original features. It was the birthplace and home of General Anthony Wayne (1745-96), a brigadier-general of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. The house has been owned continuously by the Wayne family since 1724.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of erection: The original section of the house, the present west wing, was built circa 1724 by Anthony Wayne, the grandfather of General Wayne. His son, Issac, the general's father, built the main block circa 1735. General Anthony Wayne added the east wing, originally one story, for a new kitchen circa 1790. A second story was added between 1853 and 1865.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Anthony Wayne (1724-1739) to Issac Wayne. Issac Wayne (1739-1744) to Anthony Wayne. Anthony Wayne (1744-1796) to Issac Wayne. Issac Wayne (1796-1852) to William Wayne Evans (William Wayne Evans by act of Legislature changed his name to William Wayne). William Wayne (1852-1883) to William Wayne, Jr. William Wayne, Jr. (1883-1933) to William Wayne III. William Wayne III (1933-1965) to Orrin Wickersham June (1965 to date).
4. Builder; contractor: Unknown, local mason, perhaps John Hoskins of Willistown.
5. Original plan and construction: The original 1724 house consisted of a keeping room, a large room in which all the major household functions were carried out.
6. Alterations and additions: When the main block of the house was built circa 1735, the original 1724 house became a kitchen. A second story was added to the circa 1790 east wing between 1853 and 1865. Two rooms on

the west side of the main block were joined to make a large double parlor sometime before 1900. In 1902 T. Mellon Rogers restored the rooms to his version of their 18th century appearance. A small wing was added to the north (rear) of the east wing in 1902. There have been many different porches on the north elevation of the house. The present porch was reconstructed in 1965. A 1960 HABS photograph shows the porch as rebuilt in 1937. The house has undergone several restorations in the 20th century.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The house was built in 1724 by Anthony Wayne, grandfather of General Anthony Wayne. Issac Wayne, the father of Anthony and a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly and Senate built the main house in 1735. The Wayne family was active in political, military and ecclesiastical affairs. General Anthony Wayne was born here on January 1, 1745, and inherited the estate in 1774. Wayne, known as "Mad Anthony," became famous as a brigadier-general of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. In 1792 George Washington appointed Wayne Commander of the Legions of America. Wayne died in 1796 at Presque Isle, Pennsylvania on his way home from the army post at Detroit. Many famous visitors came to Waynesborough, including Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton and Lafayette. The house has been continuously owned by the Wayne family.

C. Sources of Information:

The present owner, Orrin Wickersham June, possesses extensive documentation on the house and its history. He published an article in Antiques, October, 1968, on the house and its furnishings. The article also reproduces several old views of the house. The house is pictured on page 17 of Futhey and Cope's History of Chester County, 1883. It is also pictured on page 167 of B.J. Lossing's Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution, 1850. Administrative papers on the estate can be found in the Chester County Courthouse, West Chester, Pennsylvania. Other documents and information are available from the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

D. Supplemental Material:

1. AMERICAN WEEKLY MERCURY, June 13, 1723

There is to be Sold a Plantation in the Township of Easttown in Chester County within 18 Miles of the City of Philadelphia, but within 14 Miles of Navigable Water Containing 300 and odd Acres, 80 Acres of Clear Arable Land, 30 Acres of Meadow bearing English Grass and 30 Acres more may be made and Improved with a Constant Stream of Water, with very little Charge, A Dwelling House and a good large Barn, and an Orchard lying at the Eastern End of the Loadstones

Barren, very convenient for an Out-let or Liberty. Whosoever shall be inclined to view the said Farm, may repair to Thomas Edwards, the right Owner thereof and Dweller thereon, and may be further informed concerning the Premises, who will sell and make a good Title to the said Land upon reasonable Considerations to the Buyer.

Thomas Edwards.

[Property sold to Anthony Wayne 1724]

2. AMERICAN REPUBLICAN, (West Chester, Penn.), November 10, 1835

Grain, Dairy and Grazing FARM Waynesborough Farm For Private Sale. THE undersigned offers for Private Sale, Waynesborough Farm, on which he resides.- This plantation is situated in Easttown Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, and within one mile of Paoli Inn, which is located near the 18th mile stone, on the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike, and Philadelphia and Columbia rail road, and flanked by the public road leading from the said internal improvements to Philadelphia, Darby and Chester. A public road from Doylestown through Norristown to West Chester, the county town, passes at an agreeable distance from the front of the Mansion House. The farm contains upwards of 378 Acres, nearly one-third of which is covered with an unusual variety of first-rate timber, the principal part of which is within half a mile of the Turnpike and rail road aforesaid, and within the same distance of several lime kilns. The cleared land, which is in a high state of cultivation, is divided into 20 fields and meadows, with running water in each, or easily accessible. The whole is enclosed with good fences of chestnut rails. The buildings consist of an excellent stone Mansion House, 45 by 35 feet, exclusively of large and convenient stone wings, with all necessary outward appendages. A barn, being a new and substantial stone building, 80 by 48 feet, with extensive sheds of stone. A new, neat and convenient house, for a farmer, within an eligible distance of the Mansion House.

To any person really fond of rural and agricultural life, the above partially described property, will prove itself altogether worthy of notice, as it is particularly qualified for carrying on every branch of husbandry, on a large scale. Very nearly the whole of this plantation is visible from the Mansion, as well as from almost every other position on it.

This estate can be handsomely, conveniently and profitably divided into two or more Farms.

Inquire of

ISSAC WAYNE, on the premises.
Gen'l JOSHUA EVANS, Paoli.
JONATHAN SMITH, Esq. Walnut St.
Philad'a.

Prepared by Bart Anderson, Curator
Chester County Historical Society
September 1963
and
Marion Morton
January 1976

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Built in several sections, Waynesborough is a fine example of an 18th century stone house. As the birthplace of General Anthony Wayne, the house has historical as well as architectural value. It remains in the Wayne family with few substantial changes.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The original 1724 house (west wing) is two stories, 20' (two-bay front) by 18' (two bays). The central block is two-and-a-half stories, 40' (five-bay front) by 33'. The east wing is 17' (two-bays) by 32', not including the small one-story 1902 addition.
2. Foundations: Random rubble.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Random rubble.
4. Porches and stoops: There is a pedimented hood over the south (front) entrance. A four-bay, shed roof porch with slender wooden piers extends across the north elevation. It was reconstructed in 1965.
5. Structural system, framing: Stone load-bearing walls.
6. Chimneys: The two massive interior chimneys centered on the ridge of the central block are of stone, as are the interior-end chimneys on the west and east wings.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: On the south (front) elevation, entrance into the main block of the house is through double four-paneled doors with a five-light transom. Above the doorway is a pedimented pent hood with dentils. The door into the west wing is a four-paneled door with a transom. These doors plus the door to the east wing are framed by paneled shutters.
 - b. Windows and shutters: The first floor windows on the south facade of the central block have segmental relieving arches above them. All of the first floor windows are nine-over-nine-light double-hung wooden sash with plain trim. The exception is what appears to be a six light casement window in the north wall of the northeast wing (circa 1902). Second floor windows are six-over-six-light double-hung wooden sash.

Dormers on the north facade have six-over-six-light double-hung sash windows. The windows on the first floor have paneled shutters. On the west wing the shutters date from 1792.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape and covering: Gable roofs with wooden shingles.
- b. Cornice and eaves: On the central block, a molded box cornice with dentils extends across the gable ends forming pedimented gables. The cornice on the west wing is similar, but without dentils.
- c. Dormers: The central block of the house has dormers. The two on the south facade were added circa 1792 and there are three dormers on the north elevation.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan:

- a. First floor: The main block has a center hall plan with two rooms on either side of the slightly off-center hall. To the east of the hall are the blue parlor and dining room, to the west the green parlor and music room. In the west wing (1724) is a large library (originally the 1724 keeping room). Off of the dining room is the restored 1792 kitchen and the present kitchen.
 - b. Second floor: The plan is similar to the first floor with a central hall with four rooms off of it and additional rooms in the wings.
 - c. Third floor: A full attic is divided into rooms and storage space.
2. Stairways: The first floor central hall stairway is a reconstruction, as is the stairway in the reconstructed 1792 kitchen.
 3. Flooring: Most of the flooring is original although the floor in the first floor hallway is not.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Paint over plaster. The fireplace walls of all the first floor rooms, central block, are fully paneled. Notable woodwork in all the rooms is original with the exception of that in the green parlor and music room which date from a 1902 remodeling. Ceiling cornices are found over most of the fireplaces and some of the rooms have a continuing ceiling cornice. The fireplace wall in the blue parlor has a heavy cornice with a double dentil band. Many of the first floor rooms have wainscoting and panels under the windows. There are chair rails in all the rooms. The woodwork in the front of the hall includes paneled wainscoting and pilasters. Towards the rear of the hall the execution of the woodwork is more simple.

5. Doorways and doors: Most of the doors are modern six-paneled reproductions from the owner's workshop. The six-paneled cabinet doors in the blue parlor and in the reconstructed 1792 kitchen are original.
6. Special decorative features, trim, cabinet work, etc.: Built-in cabinets are found in the fireplace walls of many of the rooms. The cabinet in the 1792 kitchen is unusual for having its original shelves. Also in the restored kitchen are storage drawers under the windows. Most of the window reveals are paneled; those in the dining room had reeding added to them in 1792 to modernize them. The fireplace was given similar treatment at the same date. Fireplaces for the most part have a segmentally arched opening with simple mantel shelf and richly carved over-mantel. Openings in cooking fireplaces are much larger and rectangular in shape; their mantelpieces are plainer in design.
7. Hardware: The interior of the front door has an old iron strap hinge and door bar.
8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: Electric. Most of the rooms have fireplaces.
 - b. Lighting: Electric.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: House sits on a spacious lawn, facing south. In front of it are a public road and a golf course.
2. Historic landscape design: Can be seen in several old views of the house with its outbuildings.
3. Outbuildings:
 - a. Carriage house - 1883, totally reworked 1969-1972.
 - b. Springhouse - two story, rebuilt in 1832.
 - c. Foundations of barn.
 - d. Marks of tannery.
 - e. Saw pit.

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Chester County Historical Society
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